

The Del Amo Boulevard Extension

Currently in its final phase of construction and nearly 20 years in the making, the Del Amo Boulevard Extension will undoubtedly be a significant transportation improvement for the City. The new, continuous east-west route with a four-lane divided roadway connecting Madrona Avenue to Crenshaw Boulevard will improve overall traffic circulation, reduce delays and traffic volume on adjacent arterial streets and enhance public safety services by reducing emergency response times to some areas.

Phase 2, the construction of the new roadway and bridge over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad mainline, began in February of 2011 and is projected to be complete in July, 2012. The entire project; studies, environmental reports, design, right-of-way acquisition, project management and both phases of construction brought the total budget to \$34 Million. More than \$23 Million, about 68% was from federal and state grant funding.

Public Works Engineering Manager, Craig Bilezerian is managing this final phase of construction and has been involved with the project since 2000. "There have been many challenges associated with the numerous diverse elements of the project. To reach the construction phase required support from the City Council and City Management and the cooperative effort of many city employees, especially, Brian Sunshine, Beth Overstreet, Lauren Sablan, Lea Reis and Patrick Sullivan," he said. "Phase 2 construction is complex in that we are simultaneously building both the roadway and bridge, while installing traffic signals and landscaping in sequence."

Construction of the roadway portion was slightly delayed due to underlying clay and "poor" soil that required its removal and the import of more structurally suitable substrate. The massive concrete abutments that will support 11 girders over a 120-foot span were completed in December 2011.

A three-way ("T") intersection has already been created where Maple Avenue once curved into Del Amo Boulevard. Traffic signals will be installed on Del Amo at Mariner (in between Hawthorne and Madrona), Maple, and at Madrid and upgraded at Del Amo & Crenshaw. Street closure barriers similar to those on Crenshaw near 190th and Del Amo will be installed on Del Amo just west of Crenshaw and just to the east of Maple for use in the event of an emergency at the refinery. Pedestrians and cyclists will be prohibited on Del Amo between Crenshaw and Maple. "I'm very proud to be a part of an exciting project of this magnitude. I feel a real sense of accomplishment," said Bilezerian.

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Looking east towards Crenshaw Blvd



Looking east towards Crenshaw Blvd. New bridge abutments in the foreground



Looking west towards new Maple Ave intersection



Aerial view of bridge and roadway. Looking southeast

Editor's Note: You can follow the progress of the Del Amo Extension on Facebook at:
<http://on.fb.me/y8ZYDC>



The People Behind the Scene

Gia Infrerra

Performing Arts Coordinator
Cultural Services Division
Community Services Department

For the last 14 years, Gia Infrerra has been the city's 'go-to' gal for performing arts. In addition to coordinating performing arts classes, excursions, and even martial arts classes at one time, she is the liaison for all of the Cultural Services programs that use the theaters in the Cultural Arts Center and, has written and/or directed many shows and programs. One of the most prominent productions has been the annual summer musical, produced by the city with a cast of area talent, staged in the 500 seat James Armstrong Theatre. Dubbed the Torrance Theatre Company (TTC), the program expanded into a year round season of plays produced in the smaller Nakano Theatre. "TTC is a community theatre but because of our proximity to Hollywood, the actors are frequently professionally trained and experienced. Our shows reflect the high quality of local talent on stage and in our set designs, costumes and special effects," said Infrerra.

Recently, Infrerra has worked to expand the program's exposure by moving it into a charming and spacious brick building owned by the city in Downtown Torrance. Since 2004, the TTC has produced a five show season including the musical. This year they will produce six shows with all but the musical presented at the new facility on Cabrillo Avenue. "We have had wonderful support from the community for our productions," she said, "People love to make a night of it, dining in one of the many great Downtown restaurants and then walking across the street to the theatre."

Half way through the current season, public reaction, including some rave reviews for the shows, has exceeded all expectations. "We are assembling a wonderful family of creative people, actors, and audience. People feel comfortable in our space, they can just relax and enjoy the show," she said. "I am so proud that this program has been produced by the city, we provide a great theatrical experience in an easily accessible location for a great price. I hope everyone at the city will come and check it out!" The Torrance Theatre Company is located at; 1316 Cabrillo Avenue in Downtown Torrance. For more information and tickets go to; www.torrancetheatrecompany.com.

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Human Resources Reorganization

In June 2011, City Council approved the conceptual reorganization of the Human Resources Department as part of the 2011-13 City Operating Budget, followed by the approval of a reorganization plan for the department, in December 2011. Under this plan, three existing divisions, Risk Management, Recruitment and Selection, and Operations, would undergo a series of changes and re-alignments. Key changes include:

- HR Department will transition to a Division within the City Manager's Office
- The existing organization structure will be modified to develop two major HR divisions: **HR Operations** and **HR Department Support**.
- Risk Management Division (including Workers' Compensation) will be moved to the Finance Department, including a physical relocation of this function.
- Home Improvement Program (HIP) will transfer to the Community Services Department.

Physical & Local Changes

Risk Management Division will move into the second floor of the City Hall East Annex. The existing space in the current "Personnel" building just east of the main library will be remodeled to create additional office space, classrooms, conference rooms, a dedicated lunch area and an expanded lobby. The two renamed divisions will continue

to be located in this space along with the Civil Service Division.

New and Ongoing Functions

Within the new structure, the HR Department Support HR Analysts will be assigned to specific departments to work with them on exam planning and analysis, employee performance management, classification studies and compensation analysis focusing on individual departmental needs.

HR Operations will be the center for employee services like "on-boarding" of new employees, benefit transactions, mandatory programs including training and other employee outreach activities such as Health Fair and Info Bits.

The Civil Service Division will expand its scope adding marketing and recruitment to promote City job and volunteer opportunities. Staff will work with retiring and exiting employees to glean feedback utilizing the exit interview process. Workforce data and analysis will provide department heads with information to assist with attrition planning as key positions are vacated as a result of retirements.

A key component in the realignment is automation and visioning. A dedicated Sr. HR Analyst will allocate half of their time to automation. The reorganization target is March 1, 2012. The physical move for Risk Management target is the Spring of 2012.

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Torrance Rose Float 2012

REVIEW



This year's Torrance Rose Float, won the prestigious "Governor's Award" with the theme, "Looking Back – Moving Forward" celebrating the city's centennial. Built by Fiesta Parade Floats, the float depicted our double-arched railroad bridge and a Red Car occupied by Torrance residents.

CALENDAR

Torrance Advantage Awards



March 15, 2012
Armstrong Theatre 5PM

Torrance Youth Council Spring Boutique

March 25, 2012
Wilson Park 9 AM to 4PM

Employee Service Awards Luncheon

March 29, 2012
Torino Plaza/Toyota Meeting Hall
11:00AM to 1:00PM

Armed Forces Day Parade – Honoring the Air Force

Saturday, May 19, 2012
1:00PM

City Yard Open House

Saturday, June 9
10 AM to 2PM
Includes the Disaster Preparedness Expo and Environmental Fair

The Torrance Centennial Calendar can be found at:

www.torrancecentennial.org

Holiday Giving Totals

Over the 2011 holiday season, our employees adopted 350 angels at six City departments and donated **2,750 cans of food**. Great job, Torrance!

Moments in Torrance History – Another Bridge's Completion in 1975

By: Michael George, Reference Librarian

In the mid-70's, the traffic in the city during certain hours was just terrible. In fact, according to a Los Angeles Times article, "On a busy day... more people drive through the intersection of Hawthorne Blvd. and Sepulveda Blvd. than the total population of Torrance." (In 1970 there were about 135,000 people living in the city.) But, relief was at hand. In 1975 the Madrona Avenue Bridge over the refinery and the Santa Fe tracks was completed. Now, one could take Madrona- Prairie from the northern city limits to Sepulveda, bypassing busy Hawthorne; a boon for commuters heading south to the City Yard or the Civic Center. Imagine making that commute without the Madrona-Prairie link.

I.B.



We Welcome – Jamie Le

**Community Relations Specialist
City Manager's Office**

Jamie Le comes to us with well rounded public relations experience in both public and private sectors. Armed with a degree in Communications from California State University Fullerton, Le went to work in the Public Utilities Department of the City of Anaheim. There, she worked to raise awareness for green initiatives and sustainability. She continued her career at Chapman University as Marketing Coordinator for Student Affairs then was promoted to Career Relations Specialist, a full blown public relations effort with a focus on employers and partnerships for the school. Le's decision to apply at the city was influenced by her experience with the City of Anaheim. "I really enjoyed working for a municipality," she said.

Le hit the ground running at the City in late December of 2011, and is already waist deep in preparation for the City's upcoming Advantage Awards, Students in Government Day and the Armed Forces Day events. "I'm reading through old files and asking a lot of questions," she said. Michael D. Smith, Cable and Community Relations Manager said, "In the

very short time Jamie has been working for the city, she has made her presence known on various projects. Her education, experience, work ethic, dedication, and personality are a perfect fit for our division. She has excellent writing and inter-personal skills. I'm very confident; departments will be very happy and pleased with her assistance in developing events, press releases, and review of other promotional and service materials."

I.B.

EAP Name Change

Beginning January 1, 2012, all EAP and Worklife services will be under one name: **Aetna Resources For Living**

The old perception of EAP as services to help only in a crisis will shift to a positive, proactive view of providing anytime assistance and tools to improve one's quality of life. Members don't need to experience a crisis in order to use these resources that are available to assist with day to day health and wellness concerns.

Aetna Resources for Living will deliver all of the current EAP Services with absolutely no interruption. The 24/7 Confidential Access phone number remains the same: 1-800-342-8111 and their website is still: www.horizoncarelink.com

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New Employees

11/11 - 01/12

Human Resources

Amy Clemons
Claims Technician

City Manager

Jamie Le
Community Liason

Jeffrey Robinson
Area G Executive Director

City Attorney

Jennifer Woods
Legal Secretary

Public Works

Joseph Marsico
David Elizarraraz
Water Service Tech III

General Services

Tom Naeole
Maintenance Worker

Finance

Brenda Sum
Paola Pino
Accountant

Police

Samuel Lee
James Wallace
Ryan Schmitz
Police Officer

Michelle Applegate
Robin Viveros
Records Technician

Retirees

11/11 - 01/12

Name	Title	Ret Date	Years of Svc.
Michael Browne	Police Captain	12/30/2011	38
Richard Carr	Police Sergeant	12/17/2011	26
Walter Delsigne	Police Officer	12/16/2011	29
Mary Dörner	Sr. Typist Clerk	12/26/2011	24
Shaun Fudge	Fire Engineer	12/28/2011	26
Mark Garbe	Fire Engineer	12/20/2011	32
Robert Gebel	Fire Captain	10/06/2011	39
Steven Lloyd	Fire Fighter	12/21/2011	29
Katie Markowitz	Library Assistant II	12/30/2011	10
Mike McCune	Lead Maintenance Worker	11/29/2011	39
Ray Miller	Maintenance Worker	12/29/2011	13
Forrest Nishioka	Structural Plans Examiner	11/30/2011	33
James Packard	Police Sergeant	12/16/2011	29
Diana Sutherland	Sr. Account Clerk	10/31/2011	12
David Winnett Jr.	Fleet Services Manager	11/20/2011	9

Promotions

11/11 - 01/12

Community Development

Denise Aoki
Senior Administrative Assistant

Finance

Debbie Quach
Accountant

General Services

Elizabeth Coral
Assistant Booking Manager

Police

David La Plante
Animal Control Supervisor

Super Foods: The Heroes of Your Diet

Move over Batman and Superman, super foods are here to save the day! Jam-packed with nutrients and vitamins, this team of avengers stands bravely against the oppression of villains such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and many more! These 14 unprocessed foods have more nutrients per calorie than any other edible around, according to WebMD. To create your own super team, visit your local grocery store or farmer's market and recruit these foods into your shopping cart and refrigerator:

Beans – Loaded with fiber, protein and vitamins

Blueberries – Packed with antioxidants, phytoflavonoids, vitamin C and potassium

Broccoli – Has cancer fighting sulfur compounds, iron, folate, fiber and calcium

Oats – High in fiber, protein, complex carbohydrates, thiamine, iron and selenium

Oranges – Loaded with vitamin C, fiber, folate, limonene and pectin

Pumpkin – Excellent source of fiber, potassium, magnesium and vitamins C and E

Wild Salmon – Full of omega-3 fatty acids, and vitamins B and D

Soy – High in plant-derived protein and omega-3 fatty acids

Spinach – Low in calories, yet extremely high in vitamins, minerals and phytonutrients

Tea – Full of powerful antioxidants, flavanoids and fluoride

Tomatoes – Contain lycopene (protects the skin against sun damage), and vitamins B and C

Turkey (Skinless Breast) – Great source of lean protein, vitamin B, niacin, iron, selenium and zinc

Walnuts – Contain plant-derived protein, omega-3 fatty acids and phytonutrients

Yogurt – Full of live active cultures, complete protein, calcium, vitamin B and probiotics

These superfoods are on your side with omega-3 fatty acids, fiber, calcium, vitamins and minerals. They'll help you maintain a healthy weight, fight off disease and live longer.

(Provided by Aetna.com)

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Police Department Reorganization



As part of the adoption of the Police Department's Operating Budget over the last two fiscal years 2010-11 and 2011-12, the City Council approved the defunding of five positions out of a force of 346 officers and civilian employees. The reduction of four police officer and one police captain position, and concerns over the approval of the Public Safety Realignment Bill (AB 109)* were all factors considered in the development of a realignment plan. In June 2011, the City Council approved the reorganization of the Police Department. The plan intended to ensure operational efficiency and continuity in the provision of excellent service to the community.

Reassignments of Divisions and Details

- Community Affairs Division to the Patrol Bureau
- Records Division to the Administrative Bureau
- Community Lead Officer Detail to the Community Affairs Division
- Two Police Officer positions from the Traffic Division to the Patrol Division to staff the re-established Gang Detail
- One Police Officer position from the Community Affairs Division to the Detective Division, Property Crimes Section

Name & Command Changes

The Services Bureau was renamed Support Services Bureau, and the Deputy Chief assumed command. Vice & Narcotics Division changed to Special Investigations Division.

Patrol Division re-established the Gang Detail in order to support the Parole Compliance & Assistance Program (PCAP)* developed to closely monitor the parolee population in Torrance. Two officer positions were moved from the Traffic Division to staff the Gang Detail.

*Assembly Bill 109 (AB109) – Signed into law in the Spring of 2011. The bill was designed to meet a U.S. Supreme Court order for California to fix its overcrowded prison problem. AB109 shifts the responsibility for incarcerating low-risk inmates from the state to counties. Some experts say managing low-level offenders in their home counties should stabilize them, however, others raise concerns about the risk of increased crime and recidivism.

I.B.

Fire Department Reorganization

For a number of years, the Fire Department has been comprised of three divisions: Operations, Fire Administration and Fire Prevention/Haz Mat Administration. The Fire Chief requested to reorganize the Department in response to budget actions dating back to fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11. A modification to the structure was approved by the City Council in December of 2011. The new structure of the Fire Department reflects these changes:

- A Battalion Chief (Fire Marshall) was converted to a non-sworn position of Fire Prevention Manager.
- A Fire Captain (Assistant Fire Marshall) was also converted to a civilian position of Fire, Fire Prevention Senior Business Manager.
- A Typist Clerk position was added to the department.
- Three divisions became two: Operations, Fire Administration and Fire Prevention/Haz Mat Administration into Operations and Support Services

Three Divisions into Two

The new Operations division will encompass Suppression A, B and C shifts, Emergency Medical Services, Training and Special Services. The Fire Prevention/Haz Mat division will include Fire Prevention, Hazardous Materials Administration and Arson Investigation. This structure promises a new chapter for the Fire Department.



The Torrance Fire Department celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year with a new commemorative badge design.

I.B.

Torrance TRIVIA

Last Issue's Question:

Volunteering was, and is, a big part of the Torrance spirit. What was the first volunteer, in fact one of the first organizations of any kind, in the fledgling city of Torrance??

Answer: **The Volunteer Fire Department!**

Correct answers from: **Lea Reis, Donna Baranowski, Jeanne Fuller**

And, the winner picked in a blind drawing is: **Donna Baranowski**

New Question:

Del Amo Blvd. will soon run the length of Torrance. A local newspaper stated, "When the development program is completed, Del Amo [Blvd.] will be a thoroughfare of at least four lanes extending from the South Bay at Redondo Beach through the heart of Torrance's industrial section ..."

What decade did this statement appear?

1940s, 1950s, 1970s, 1980s or 2010s

Please email your answers to: **JanetStancliff3@gmail.com**

Thanks to **Michael George** for contributing the Torrance Trivia questions and answers.

I•B

Submit all game responses, employee news and calendar items to: JanetStancliff3@gmail.com

What Do You Do?

Tom Kelly

**Project Coordinator/Senior Building Inspector
General Services**

In 2003, somebody asked at a meeting of the building inspectors if anyone would be interested in being a project coordinator for the impending remodeling job at the Benstead Plunge. Tom Kelly raised his hand. "It's in the MOU as a special assignment and I thought it sounded interesting," recalls Kelly. Nine years later, in addition to the Plunge job, Kelly has overseen construction and remodeling projects at the Nakano Theatre, the One Stop, Police Department, and the Branch Libraries. "I work with the outside contractors as the city's representative, I also coordinate with the affected city departments and employees to make sure their needs are met during the construction process."

After 40 years in the construction industry, 26 of those spent as a building inspector for the city, Kelly feels prepared for all the surprises that can occur during a remodeling job. His involvement begins during the planning stages of a project; plans are distributed to the tenant of the area involved as well as Building Maintenance, CIT and the HVAC Department. "I want to hear from everyone who will work in and be charged with maintaining the new space." Kelly does his own research on products and equipment that are specified. The strong inter-departmental collaboration helps everything go smoothly.

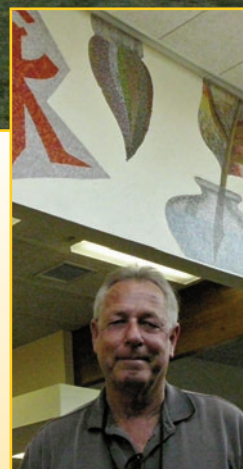
"The best thing about the experience is getting acquainted with so many city employees," said Kelly. "I probably know a couple hundred more of them than I



did before." The most difficult is wringing value out of every penny in the budget, "Sometimes I have to really squeeze to get everything we can."

Kelly currently oversees the ongoing work on all the library branch restrooms for ADA accessibility. The next big thing will be the CSI lab in the Police Department, currently in plan check. When Kelly is not building something here at the city, he is home in Lakewood, working on his house, building a surfboard or out in the ocean, catching a wave.

I•B



Tom Kelly at the North Torrance Library Branch where they enclosed the front of the building without losing the wonderful mosaic artwork that was on the building's exterior, now in the light and airy indoor addition.